

BICYCLE CARRIER

Cross Reference to Related Application

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial ^{now U.S. Pat. No 6,601,712} No. 10/196,330 filed July 15, 2002, which application is a divisional application of U.S. ^{now U.S. Pat. No 6,460,708} 5 Patent Application Serial No. 09/910,649 filed July 20, 2001, titled "Bicycle Carrier" ^{now U.S. Patent No 6,283,310} which application is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/447,908 filed November 23, 1999, ^{now U.S. Patent No 6,283,310} titled "Bicycle Carrier" and are hereby incorporated by reference.

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Field of the Invention

10 The present invention relates to bicycle carriers and more particularly to a fork block and wheel tray used to secure a bicycle on a roof rack.

Background of the Invention

With the growing popularity of bicycling as a recreational activity, vehicles are often equipped with racks to transport bicycles. Such racks come in many different styles 15 and configurations. One common configuration is a roof rack in which one or more bicycles are mounted to a pair of crossbars that extend across the top of the vehicle.

Various systems have been developed to secure and stabilize bicycles on vehicle-mounted cross arms. One such system utilizes a fork block mounted to one of the bars with a skewer extending therethrough to receive and grip the front forks of a bicycle. 20 Typically, a wheel tray extends from the fork block to the other crossbar to receive the rear tire of the bicycle. In a slight variation, a short wheel tray is attached to only one crossbar to receive the rear wheel. One limitation of this variation is that the rear wheel